1847MNRAS...7Q.249R

Exact Elements of Hind's second comet from the South Villa observations of Feb. 8 and 15, and the Berlin place for Feb. 22. By Dr. Brünnow.

Perihelion Passage 1847, March 30·31407, Berlin M.T.

	°	′	″
Longitude of Perihelion	274	25	42·9
Longitude of Ascending Node	19	49	9
Inclination	48	38	20·5
Log. least distance	8·672159		

Motion Direct.

Occultations of Fixed Stars observed at Hamburg, by M. Rümker.

Hamburg M.T.			Immersion.			Emersion.		
			h	m	s	h	m	s
1845.	Aug. 14	B. A. C. 6536	8	40	31·4			
	20	δ Piscium	9	9	37·8	10	7	20·3
	Sept. 13	ξ Aquarii	9	22	56·1			
	Nov. 6	ν Aquarii	7	42	6·5	8	3	2·3
	Dec. 17	α^1 Cancri	8	47	15·0	9	30	22·4
1846.	July 5	ν Scorpii	11	45	11·3			
	Sept. 1	ρ^1 Sagittarii	10	9	9·6			
	Oct. 11	λ Geminor.				12	26	0·9
	Nov. 23	β^2 Capricor.	6	32	17·8			
	Dec. 3	119 Tauri				6	31	14·2
	24	21 Piscium	7	25	11·1			
	29	δ^1 Tauri	7	50	19·7	8	38	57·7
		δ^3 Tauri	9	14	43·9			
1847.	Feb. 25	*k* Geminor.	10	27	55·3			

Sweeping Ephemeris for the comet of 1556, by Mr. Boreham.

The following ephemeris is computed on Halley's elements as given by Santini, and assuming a period of 291·76 years. The hypothetical times of perihelion passage are May 15, June 15, and July 12, of the current year.

Per. Pass. May 15.	R.A.		Dec.	
	h	m	°	′
April 8	6	2	+13	24
15	5	28	+12	8
May 7	4	27	10	9

Per. Pass. June 15.	R.A.		Dec.	
	h	m	°	′
April 10	10	33	+22	12
16	9	24	22	39
May 9	7	8	17	12
16	6	49	15	58

Per. Pass. July 12.	R.A.		Dec.	
	h	m	°	′
April 14	12	9	+20	23
May 7	9	32	21	55
13	9	6	20	50

On some Discrepancies in observing an Emersion of *Jupiter's* First Satellite, by Mr. Riddle.

The Emersion of the First Satellite was observed on Jan. 12, by four observers with telescopes A, B, C, D.

		Ft.	In.		Inches.	
A	Munich Glass	8	6	focus	6·4	aperture
B	Cauchoix	8	2		6·7	
C	Dollond, Sen.	3	8		2·75	
D	Simms	4	0		3·25	

All are mounted equatorially, and the observers well practised.

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The Greenwich Mean Time of Emersion was as follows:—

	h	m	s
A	5	13	8
B	5	12	1·7
C	5	14	1
D	5	14	1

Supposing the observations to be correct, it is difficult to account for these differences. Mr. Riddle shews that the effect of the penumbra of *Jupiter* is not sufficient. He suggests that, perhaps, the light refracted by the atmosphere of *Jupiter* may influence the visibility of the satellites, and recommends an examination of these interesting phenomena with the most powerful optical means which can be applied.

On the Elimination of the Negative Sign in certain Astronomical Computations. By Mr. Drach.

Referring to the proposal of the Astronomer Royal in the *Monthly Notice* for January last, Mr. Drach is of opinion that larger constants would be preferable to those mentioned by Mr. Airy. In this way the index of the logarithm might always be made 1 or 0 which would be more convenient than when the index is negative. The constant might be subtracted from the mean place of the catalogue, as in the planetary tables.

Mr. Drach also suggests an assimilation of Geographical Longitude with Astronomical Right Ascension, and would designate it as geographical difference of time, G D T: he suggests the use of North Polar Distance in geography instead of Latitude.

The Society then resolved itself into a Special General Meeting pursuant to notice given.

Proposed by Mr. Airy, seconded by Rev. R. Sheepshanks:—

"That so much of the bye-laws as relates to the number of medals which may be adjudged in any one year, the time of giving notice of the proposal for a medal, the time of adjudging the medal, and the time of presenting the medal, be suspended *pro hâc vice*."

"That the Council be authorised to award two (or more) medals, if they shall deem it expedient to do so."

"That the award of the Council be communicated to the Society; and that the medal or medals be presented at the ordinary meeting of April 9th."

Proposed in amendment by Mr. De Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bishop:—

"That on taking all the circumstances into consideration, and particularly the existing differences of opinion on the subject, it is not expedient to propose to the Council to reconsider the subject of the medal."

This amendment was carried.

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